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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

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Date of mailing (day/month/year) 26 February 1999 (26.02.99)	in its capacity as elected Office
International application No. PCT/US98/14679	Applicant's or agent's file reference L0461/7039WO
International filing date (day/month/year) 15 July 1998 (15.07.98)	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 July 1997 (17.07.97)
Applicant SCANLAN, Matthew, J. et al	·

	SCANLAN, Matthew, J. et al
1.	The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made: X in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on: 20 January 1999 (20.01.99)
	in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2.	The election X was was was not was not made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED	UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCI)	
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WO 99/04265 (51) International Patent Classification 6: (11) International Publication Number: G01N 33/574 28 January 1999 (28.01.99) (43) International Publication Date:

PCT/US98/14679 (21) International Application Number:

15 July 1998 (15.07.98) (22) International Filing Date:

(30) Priority Data: 17 July 1997 (17.07.97) US 08/896,164 US 10 October 1997 (10.10.97) 60/061,599 US 10 October 1997 (10.10.97) 60/061,765 US 10 October 1997 (10.10.97) 08/948,705 11 October 1997 (11.10.97) GB 9721697.2 22 June 1998 (22.06.98) 09/102,322

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): LUDWIG INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH [CH/US]; 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158 (US).

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(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): OLD, Lloyd, J. [US/US]; 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105 (US). SCANLAN, Matthew, J. [US/US]; 1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (US). STOCKERT, Elisabeth [US/US]; 1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (US). GURE, Ali [TR/US], 1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (US). CHEN, Yao-Tseng [-/US]; The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Dept. of Pathology, 525 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10021 (US). GOUT, Ivan

[UA/GB]; 91 Riding House Street, London WIP 8BT (GB). O'HARE, Michael [GB/GB]; 91 Riding House Street, London W1P 8BT (GB). OBATA, Yuichi [JP/JP]; Chikusa-Ku, Nagoya 464 (JP). PFREUNDSCHUH, Michael [DE/DE]; Innere Medizin 1, D-66421 Homburg/Saar (DE). TURECI, Ozlem [DE/DE]; Innere Medizin 1, D-66421 Homburg/Saar (DE). SAHIN, Ugur [TR/DE]; Innere Medizin 1, D-66421 Homburg/Saar (DE).

(74) Agent: VAN AMSTERDAM, John, R.; Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C., 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02210 (US).

(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

(54) Title: CANCER ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACIDS AND POLYPEPTIDES

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(57) Abstract

Various molecules associated with cancer are disclosed. The invention also discloses diagnostic and therapeutic methods based upon these molecules.



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C12N 15/12, C07K 14/705, C12Q 1/68, G01N 33/53.	
C07K 16/28, A61K 38/17, 31/70, 39/00, 35/12,	1
39/395, 48/00	

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 99/04265

(43) International Publication Date:

28 January 1999 (28.01.99)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US98/14679

A3

(22) International Filing Date:

15 July 1998 (15.07.98)

(30) Priority Data:

OFILY DAGE:	17 July 1997 (17.07.97)	US
08/896,164		
60/061,599	10 October 1997 (10.10.97)	US
60/061,765	10 October 1997 (10.10.97)	US
08/948,705	10 October 1997 (10.10.97)	US
9721697.2	11 October 1997 (11.10.97)	GB
09/102,322	22 June 1998 (22.06.98)	US

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Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

26 August 1999 (26.08.99)

(54) Title: CANCER ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACIDS AND POLYPEPTIDES

(57) Abstract

Tumor cell-specific antigens from melanoma cells have previously been identified using autologous cytolytic T cells clones from the patient, but the same approach did not work well with other tumour types. Here, screening of such antigens was successfully performed using antisera from the patient. Provided are several tumor cell-specific antigens, nucleic acids encoding them, antibodies and CTL's directed against these antigens, antigenic fragments diagnostic kits, etc.

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INTE .TIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internationa . uplication No PCT/ _ 98/14679

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 C12N15/12 C07K14/705

A61K38/17

A61K31/70

C12Q1/68 A61K39/00 G01N33/53 A61K35/12

C07K16/28 A61K39/395

A61K48/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C12N C07K A61K G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUM	NTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category 3	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X	WO 97 17470 A (HOLLAND JAMES F) 15 May 1997 Also against claims 82-84,116,117see whole	1,2, 4-10,18, 21-23, 27,28, 31,32, 40,42, 44,45, 48-51, 58-60, 67-70, 76-79
	document, particularly the claims -/	

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in annex.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 3 June 1999	Date of mailing of the international search report 2.9.06, 1999
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan ^ NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk	Authorized officer

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	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X	GB 2 273 099 A (ASTA MEDICA AG) 8 June 1994 Also against claims 108,109,116,117. See	1.2. 4-10.31. 32.40. 42,43. 49,50. 58-60. 67.69, 71.72. 74-79, 82-84. 99-104
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	see the whole document, particularly the claims and seq. 1 and 2. Also against claims	65,67
	70-72,74,76-80,82-85,88,89,99-104,108-111, 116,117.	
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INTEL TIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International discation No PCT, 98/14679

		PC1, 5 98/146/9
C.(Continua	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
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X	MASHIMO, J. ET AL.: "Decrease in the expression of a novel TGF betal-inducible and ras-recision gene, TSC-36, in human cancer cells." CANCER LETTERS, vol. 113, March 1997, pages 213-9, XP002104545 see abstract	1,2,4-10,13
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PC1, S 98/14679

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ategory ²	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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X	MINEGISHI, M. ET AL.: "Structure and function of Cas-L, a 105 kD Crk-associated substructure-related protein that is involved in beta-l integrin-mediated signaling in lymphocytes." JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE, vol. 184, no. 4, 1 October 1996, pages 1365-75, XP002103183	18, 21-23, 27-29, 31,32, 37,40, 44,45, 47-50, 56, 58-60, 65, 67-72, 74-80, 82-84
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	see page 3, line 24 - line 29 see page 6, line 27 - line 29; figure 3 see page 27, line 15 see page 28, line 27 - line 28	
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		PC1/ 3 90/140/9
C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
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Х	DATABASE EMBL - EMEST16 Entry HSC9958, Acc.no. C15995, 29 September 1996 FUJIWARA, T. ET AL.: "Human fetal brain cDNA 5'-end GEN-421G02." XP002103191 see the whole document	44,59, 60,63, 67-70
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(HUNG, D.T. ET AL.: "cDNA cloning of a human 25 kDa FK506 and rapamycin binding protein." BIOCHEMICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS, vol. 184, no. 2, 30 April 1992, pages 733-8, XP002103178 see figure 2	44,59, 60,63, 67-70
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X	DATABASE EMBL - EMEST15 Entry HSAA33416, Acc.no. AA133416, 6 December 1996 HILLIER, L. ET AL.: "zk96e08.r1 Soares pregnant uterus NbHPU Homo sapiens cDNA clone 490694 5'." XP002103196 see the whole document	44,45. 67,70			
Х	DATABASE EMBL - EMEST11 Entry HS1282878, Acc.no. AA487071, 28 June 1997 HILLIER, L. ET AL.: "ab18f11.s1 Stratagene lung (#937210) Homo sapiens cDNA clone 841197 3' similar to contains Alu repetitive element." XP002103197 see the wnole document		44.45. 67.70		
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	see the whole document		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		

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4	SAHIN, U. ET AL.: "Human neoplasms elicit multiple specific immune responses in the autologous host." PROC.NATL.ACAD.SCI.USA, vol. 92, December 1995, pages 11810-3, XP002091914 cited in the application see the whole document			
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coding sequences of unidentified human genes. X The complete sequences of 100 new cDNA clones from brain which can code for large proteins in vitro" DNA RESEARCH, vol. 5, no. 321, 30 June 1998, pages 169-176, XP002089186 see abstract; figures 1,2; table 2 US 5 858 723 A (MUELLER-LANTZSCH NIKOLAUS	44,45, 59,60, 67-70, 83,84	characterization of BRDT: a testis-specific gene related to the bromodomain genes RING3 and Drosophila fsh." GENOMICS, vol. 45, no. 3, 1 November 1997, pages 529-34, XP002103185 see page 529, right-hand column, paragraph 2 see page 530, left-hand column, paragraph 2; figure 1 see page 532, right-hand column, paragraph	>,X	
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INTER. ITIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat | | Application No PCT/US 98/14679

Category '	Office of decimant, with indication where appropriate of the colorest	Delawart to class No.
ategory '	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 98 40483 A (HUMAN GENOME SCIENCES INC ;GREENE JOHN M (US); LI YI (US); ROSEN C) 17 September 1998	1,2, 4-10,14, 18, 21-24, 27,28, 31,32, 36,40, 44,45, 47-50, 55, 58-60, 64,67-72
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E	WO 98 08866 A (WISTAR INST) 5 March 1998 see the whole document	1,2
E	WO 98 48015 A (CHUGAI RES INST MOLECULAR MED ;JONES MICHAEL H CHUGAI RESEARC (JP)) 29 October 1998	18,22, 23, 27-29, 31,32, 40, 44-50, 58-60, 67-72, 74, 76-78, 85,88, 89,102, 103
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Ε	WO 98 32853 A (GENETICS INST) 30 July 1998	18,21, 22,24, 27-29, 44,45, 47-50, 53,59, 60,62, 67-72, 74, 76-80,82
	see seq. 7 and 8 see page 6, line 23 - page 8, line 12;	
	claims 20-22 see page 21, line 17 - page 22, line 11	
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TERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern: al Application No PCT/US 98/14679

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			98/14679	
Category '	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		Relevant to claim No.	
Τ	SCANLAN, M.J. ET AL.: "Isoforms of the human PDZ-73 protein exhibit differential tissue expression" BIOCHIMICA ET BIOPHYSICA ACTA, vol. 1445, no. 1, 1999, pages 39-52, XP002104553 also for claims 77-80,82-84,116. see the whole document			
Г	DRABKIN, H.A. ET AL.: "DEF-3(g16/NY-LU-12), an RNA binding protein from the 3p21.3 homozygous deletion region in SCLC" ONCOGENE, vol. 18, 1999, pages 2589-97, XP002104554 see the whole document			
			**CH1"	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US 98/14679

Box I	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X	Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
	Although claims 85-111 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2.	Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
a [
3.	Claims Nos because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
	see additional sheet
1,	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2.	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. X	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
	1-14,17-36,39-55,58-64,67-117; see additional sheets, pages 3-4.
4.	No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark	on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
	X No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

Invention 1: claims 1-11,17-33,39-52,58-61,67-117, all partially

The nucleic acid sequence of Seq.ID 1, fragments or complements thereof, and the corresponding polypeptide(s) encoded thereby, and immunogenic and/or HLA binding fragments thereof, optionally as part of a complex with a HLA molecule, an expression vector comprising said nucleic acid, and optionally a human HLA molecule, a host cell transformed with said vector, and an antibody against said polypeptide(s).

Also a method of diagnosing of a disorder characterised by overexpression of said polypeptide(s) and a method for determining regression, progression or onset of a disease associated with overexpression of said polypeptide(s), using agents that specifically bind to said nucleic acid, said polypeptide(s) or complexes of (fragments of) said polypeptide(s) and a HLA molecule. A kit comprising two polynucleotides for the detection of said nucleic acid Also pharmaceutical preparations

- which enrich the presence of said polypeptide-HLA complex, optionally comprising an adjuvant, or
- which inhibits the expression of said polypeptide(s), or
- comprising an agant that selectively binds said polypeptide, optionally as a conjugate with a diagnostic or therapeutic compound, or
- comprising said nucleic acid, optionally in an expression vector, optionally in a host cell, or
- comprising said polypeptide(s), optionally in combination with an adjuvant, or
- comprising cytolytic T cells, specific for said polypeptide-HLA complex, or
- comprising an antibody against said polypeptide(s).

Inventions 2-119: claims 1-11,13,15,17-33,35,37, 39-52,54,56,58-61,63,65,67-117, all partially (1)

Inventions 2-119: Idem as subject 1 but limited to each of the DNA sequences as in Seq.ID:2-40,66,89-169 (odd numbers), 170,172,174, and 176-210, where invention 2 is limited to Seq.ID:2 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby, invention 3 is limited to Seq.ID:3 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby,...., and invention 119 is limited to Seq.ID:210 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby.

Invention 120: claims claims 1-10,13,17-32,35, 39-51,54,58-60,63,67-117, all nartially

PCT/US 98/14679

Idem as subject 1 but limited to the DNA sequences seq.ID:211 and 329 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby.

Inventions 121-452: claims 1-10,13,16-32,35,38-51, 54,57-60,63,66-117, all partially (1)

Inventions 121-452: Idem as subject 1 but limited to each of the DNA sequences as in Seq.ID:212-328, and 330-543, where invention 121 is limited to Seq.ID:211 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby, invention 122 is limited to Seq.ID:212 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby,...., and invention 452 is limited to Seq.ID:543 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby.

Invention 453: claims 1-10,12,17-32,34,39-51,53, 58-60,62,67-117, all partially

Idem as subject 1 but limited to the DNA sequences seq.ID:544 and 554 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby.

Inventions 454 and 455: claims 1-10,12,17-32,34, 39-51,53,58-60,62,67-117, all partially

Inventions 454 and 455: Idem as subject 1 but limited to each of the DNA sequences as in Seq.ID:546 and 548, where invention 454 is limited to Seq.ID:546 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby, and invention 455 is limited to Seq.ID:548 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby.

Invention 456: claims 1-10,12,17-32,34,39-51,53,
58-60,62,67-117, all partially

Idem as subject 1 but limited to each of the DNA sequences as in Seq.ID:550, 552, 556, 558 and 560 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby.

Inventions 457-582: claims 1-10,12-14,17-32,34-36, 39-51,53-55,58-60,62-64,67-117, all partially (1)

Inventions 457-582: Idem as subject 1 but limited to each of the DNA sequences as in Seq.ID:562-586 (even numbers),

588-683,686,687,689,691,692,692, and 696-706, where invention 457 is limited to Seq.ID:562 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby, invention 458 is limited to Seq.ID:564 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby,...., and invention 582 is limited to Seq.ID:706 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby.

Invention 583: claims 1-10,14,17-32,36,39-51,55,
58-60,64,67-117, all partially

Idem as subject 1 but limited to each of the DNA sequences as in Seq.ID:707, 709, 711 and 712 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby.

Inventions 584-592: claims 1-117, all partially (1)

Inventions 584-592: Idem as subject 1 but limited to each of the DNA sequences as in Seq.ID:799-815 (odd numbers), where invention 584 is limited to Seq.ID:799 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby, invention 585 is limited to Seq.ID:801 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby,....., and invention 592 is limited to Seq.ID:815 and corresponding polypeptides encoded thereby).

For the sake of conciseness, the subject matter of the first invention is explicitly defined, the other subject matters are defined by analogy thereto.

(1) In as far as the claims searched for a group of inventions refer to specific groups of sequences, only those claims which refer to the groups comprising the nucleic acid sequence of a particular invention, and/or its corresponding polypeptide sequence(s), form parts of that invention.

Due to the fact that extensive sequence homologies were found between several groups of sequences during the additional searches, some of the sequences have been grouped, whereby each of these groups comprising two or more such homologous sequences is considered to be one invention.

Claims searched during primary and additional searches: 1-14,17-36,39-55,58-64,67-117, limited to: Invention 1, seq.ID.1 Invention 52, seq.ID.111, and 112 (transl.) Invention 61, seq.ID.129, and 130 (transl.) Invention 71, seq.ID.149, and 150 (transl.) Invention 72, seq.ID.151, and 152 (transl.) Invention 116, seq.ID.206 Invention 120, seq.ID.211 and 329; (related sequences) Invention 137, seq.ID.228

Invention 139, seq.ID.330

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Invention 219, seq.ID.411
Invention 453, seq.ID.544, and 545 (transl.),
               and seq.ID.554, and 555 (transl.);
               (related sequences)
Invention 454, seq.ID.546, and 547 (transl.) Invention 455, seq.ID.548, and 548 (transl.)
Invention 456, seq.ID.550, and 551 (transl.),
              and seq.ID.552, and 553 (transl.),
              and seq.ID.556, and 557 (transl.), and seq.ID.558, and 559 (transl.), and seq.ID.560, and 561 (transl.);
               (related sequences)
Invention 547 seq.ID.665 Invention 548, seq.ID.666
Invention 554, seq.ID.672
Invention 558, seq.ID.676
Invention 563, seq.ID.681
Invention 566, seq.ID.686
Invention 583, seq.ID.707, and 708 (transl.), and seq.ID.709, and 710 (transl.),
              and seq.ID.711,
              and seq.ID.712:
              (related sequences).
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's	or age	nt's file reference		See Not	ification of Transmittal of Intern	ational	
L0461/7039WO FOR FUE			FOR FURTHER ACTION		ary Examination Report (Form		
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VI	•	Certain documents cit					
VII		• •					
VIII ⊠ Certain observations on the international application							
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY **EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US98/14679

I. Basis of the report

2.

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):

	Des	cription, pages:				
	1-88	3	as originally filed			
	57a	-57b°	as received on	27/09/1999	with letter of	27/09/1999
	Clai	ms, No.:				
	1,2, 9-11	3 (part), 17	as originally filed			
	3 (part),4-8		as received on	27/09/1999	with letter of	27/09/1999
	Dra	wings, sheets:				
	1/9-	9/9	as originally filed			
2.	The	amendments have	e resulted in the cancellation of:			
		the description,	pages:			
		the claims,	Nos.:			
		the drawings,	sheets:			
3.	×		een established as if (some of) to beyond the disclosure as filed (F		nts had not been made	e, since they have beer
		see separate she	eet			
4.	Add	litional observation	ns, if necessary:			
		see separate she	eet			

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:



International application No. PCT/US98/14679

		the entire international application.
	X	claims Nos. 85-111.
bec	aus	e:
	Ø	the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 85-111 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (<i>specify</i>):
		see separate sheet
		the description, claims or drawings (indicate particular elements below) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):
		the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
		no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos
IV.	. La	ck of unity of invention
1.	ln i	response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:
		restricted the claims.
		paid additional fees.
		paid additional fees under protest.
	×	neither restricted nor paid additional fees.
2.		This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.
3.	Th	is Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
		complied with.
	×	not complied with for the following reasons:
		see separate sheet
4	. C	onsequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US98/14679

examination in establishing this report:			
	all parts.		
\boxtimes	the parts relating to claims Nos. 1-10, 12-14, 17-32, 34-36, 39-51, 53-55, 58-60, 62-64, 67-117 all partially.		

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-10, 12-14, 17-32, 34-36, 39-51, 53-55, 58-60, 62-64, 67-117 (please see also separate sheet)
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	 1-10, 12-14, 17-32, 34-36, 39-51, 53-55, 58-60, 62-64, 67-117
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-10, 12-14, 17-32, 34-36, 39-51, 53-55, 58-60, 62-64, 67-84, 112-117

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

Part I

The pages designated in "Basis of the report" with 57a and 57b correspond to the pages submitted as 57/1 and 57/2 by the applicant.

The sequence listings on pages 1-415 have been filed on the filing date of the application and are therefore considered to form part of the description (Rule 13ter, 1(f) PCT).

Pages 57/1 and 57/2 which contain Table 5 do not have a basis in the originally filed documents and therefore contravene Art. 34(2)(b) PCT. Hence, the results presented in Table 5 have not been taken into consideration for establishing this report.

On the amended page of claims an obvious error in claim 3 has been corrected and hence the requirements of Art. 34(2)(b) are met. It should, however, be noticed that the format and pagination of the amended page of claims does not correspond to the original set of claims.

Part III

Claims 85-111 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Art. 34(4)(a)(i) PCT).

Part IV

The requirement of unity of invention is not complied with for the reasons set out in PCT/ISA forms 206 and 210.

The applicant has chosen to proceed with Invention 563 and therefore, claims 1-10, 12-14, 17-32, 34-36, 39-51, 53-55, 58-60, 62-64, 67-117 insofar as they relate to SEQ ID NO: 681 (SEQ 681) have been examined (Art. 34(3)(c) PCT).

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

Part V

a) Novelty and Inventive step

None of the available prior art documents discloses SEQ ID NO:681 or close mutants thereof. Therefore, claims 1-10, 12-14, 17-32, 34-36, 39-51, 53-55, 58-60, 62-64, 67-117 insofar as they explicitly refer to SEQ 681, would appear to be novel. It should, however, be borne in mind that at present some claims explicitly relate to fragments of SEQ 681 which are in no way limited (see e.g. claim 2) or to agents capable of binding to SEQ 681 (see e.g. claim 1); as these features do not have a clear technical meaning, the novelty of these claims could be prejudiced by nucleic acids and peptides with quite different sequences. Therefore, no conclusive examination as to the novelty (Art. 33(2) PCT) of the claims is possible (See also Part VIII).

Even claims restricted to the exact SEQ 681 and e.g. corresponding peptides would not appear to meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons. SEQ 681 is a nucleic acid which has apparently been isolated from cancer total RNA by the SEREX approach. It is, however, not disclosed in the application which tissue was the source for the RNA extraction. In the SEREX approach, a cDNA library is constructed from fresh tumour specimens, packaged into lambda-phage vectors and expressed recombinantly in Escherichia coli. Recombinant proteins are transferred on to nitrocellulose membranes, and identified as antigens by their reactivity with high-titer IgG antibodies present in the patient's serum (autologous serum) detected using an enzyme-conjugated secondary antibody specific for human IgG. Positive clones are subcloned to monoclonality, and the nucleotide sequence of the inserted DNA is determined. This approach is known from the prior art (see e.g. D1: PNAS, 92, 1995, 11810-11813). The antigens found by this method can be tumourspecific, overexpressed in tumours or they can even be cancer-independent autoantigens. Therefore, confirmation of a found antigen as being tumour-specific must be done by further experiments.

For SEQ 681, no properties at all are given in the description. Although the whole description states in very general terms that the found sequences are cancer-specific there is not a single experiment given for SEQ 681 which could prove this property and rule out the possibility that SEQ 681 is any other autoantigen. It appears therefore, that SEQ 681 has been randomly selected out of a wealth of several hundred sequences identified by the applicant when applying a standard screening method. As it is not apparent whether SEQ 681 solves any technical problem, no inventive step can be acknowledged for any of the subject-matter examined.

b) Industrial Applicability

For the assessment of the present claims 85-111 on the question whether they are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT contracting states. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

Part VII

- a) The expression "herein incorporated by reference" or equivalents thereof (see e.g. pages 5, 58 and 88) will have to be deleted in some cases when entering the national or regional phase (see e.g. the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, C-II, 4.18)
- b) The reference to non-published patent applications (see e.g. pages 37 and 84) should be changed to published publication numbers throughout the application.
- c) Table 5 which is referred to in Example 6 (see page 57) of the description is missing, thereby leading to an inconsistency. It appears, however, that this inconsistency cannot be overcome without infringing Art. 34(2)(b) PCT (see also Part I).

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

Part VIII

- All claims examined are unclear as they include terms (NA group 1, PP group 1 a) etc.) which do not have an unambiguous meaning in the relevant art (Art. 6 PCT). Inclusion of the definitions for these groups given in the description (pages 13-16) would have remedied this defect; it appears that the definitions in the description are clear in scope as the fragments of the specific sequence to which the definitions relate are clearly limited by their function. However, several claims are additionally rendered unclear by explicitly relating to fragments which are not even functionally limited (see e.g. claim 2), Art. 6 PCT. This unclarity should have been overcome by deleting the unclear term.
- b) In the description of the present application it is not at all apparent from which cancer tissue the RNA leading to the detection of SEQ 681 has been extracted. Nevertheless, it appears that the information as to SEQ 681 given in the sequence listings is sufficient to put the skilled person into a position to perform the invention according to claims 1-84 and 112-117. The objection as to insufficient disclosure (Art. 5 PCT) is therefore dropped with regard to claims 1-84 and 112-117.

However, an objection as to lack of support applies to the methods of treating a patient (claims 85-111) since no methods of treatment are disclosed at all (Art. 6 PCT). Moreover, as neither the function and properties nor the tissue specificity of SEQ 681 are known (the description merely gives general statements and does nowhere explicitly mention SEQ 681 or a single experiment with this sequence), it is doubtful whether treatment could be performed with this nucleic acid sequence or corresponding peptides. Moreover, even if it could be clearly proven that SEQ 681 was a cancer restricted antigen, the success of treatment by protein vaccination (claims 85-89), provision of cytolytic T cells against the antigen (claims 90-92), DNA vaccination (claims 93-98) would be fully speculative. Although it is not questioned that the principles of the above methods are known in the art it should nevertheless be noticed that these methods only work under carefully selected conditions and there is no standard procedure. For these reasons, the skilled person could not perform the invention according to claims 85-111 without undue burden, contrary to Art. 5 PCT.